

CITY-COUNTY COMMON
County-City Building • 555 S. 10th Street • Lincoln, NE

County Commissioners
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Mayor
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AGENDA
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2006
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
555 SOUTH 10TH STREET, ROOM 113
9:30 A.M.

**1. APPROVAL OF SUPER COMMON MEETING MINUTES OF
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2006**

2. PRESENTATIONS

9:30 A.M. Emergency Medical Services 2005 Statistics - Dr. Michels, EMS, Inc.
Chairman; Joan Anderson, Lancaster County Medical Society Director

9:50 A.M. Update on Rural Ambulance Service - Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management
Director

10:00 A.M. Lincoln-Lancaster County Open Space Implementation Status Report over
Last Five Years - Lynn Johnson, Parks and Recreation Department Director

CITY-COUNTY COMMON

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

County-City Building

555 South 10th Street, Room 113

County Commissioners Present: Bob Workman, Chair; Ray Stevens; and Larry Hudkins.
Absent: Deb Schorr, Chair; and Bernie Heier.

City Council Members Present: Dan Marvin, Vice-Chair; Jon Camp; Robin Eschliman; Annette McRoy; Patte Newman; and Ken Svoboda.
Absent: Jonathan Cook

Others Present: Member Mayor Coleen Seng; Trish Owen, Deputy County Clerk; Dale Michels, EMS; Joan Anderson, EMS; Beth Haup, EMS; Lynn Johnson, Park and Recreation Director; Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Chief Administrator; Kerry Eagan, County Chief Administrator; Tom Malmstrom, Parks and Rec Natural Resources Coordinator; Terry Genrich, Natural Resources Manager; and Mary Meyer, County Commissioners Staff.

Chair Workman opened the meeting with introductions of the City-County Common members and welcomed Dr. Dale Michels and Joan Anderson of Emergency Medical Services.

Emergency Medical Services 2005 Statistics

Dr. Michels gave a short bio and stated he has the privilege of serving as chair of the EMS, Inc. Board. **(Handout/EMS Annual Report)** The report outlines various activities over the last ten year with EMS, Inc., including refinement, maintenance, upgrading protocol, changing items while monitoring others.

Dr. Michels stated 12 electrocardiograms were implemented in the field last year. Very beneficial, allowing the paramedics and hospitals to determine the likelihood of someone having a heart attack. Also implemented a new airway protocol. They have trained paramedics to use a special tube to protect the throat as well as protecting the airway, quickly and easily. Then, through the city-wide AED Consortium have installed AED's in many locations, a very positive accomplishment. There have been several incidents in which an AED was used prior to the arrival of medics. Will have cardiac statistics available shortly after review with the new software from Lincoln Fire and Rescue.

Stevens asked about any negative experience with using AED's, as people initially feared they could be improperly administered. Michels responded it's a relatively fail safe system that utilizes an audio program which go into effect when placed on an individual's chest. AED's are not designed to initiate a shock unless there's a reason. The AED feedback is very positive.

Anderson added they have not had any negative feedback whatsoever and that the American Heart Association reviews their recommendations, approximately every five years, for the type of shock given. This means every AED will have a new computer chip in order to shock at the appropriate time. Unsure of the cost but the vendors are working very diligently making the cost limited, and in some cases at no cost, as it's a matter of upgrading the machines.

For the general public Workman asked what AED stood for. Anderson replied Automatic External Defibrillator. AED's are at numerous locations, including the County-City Building. Any person who's taken CPR, or basic life support, can be trained in how to use a AED. AED's have been a huge nationwide trend in saving cardiac arrest victims.

Workman inquired as to the number of individuals saved in Lancaster County. Anderson replied

at least one, although AED's have been used in a different scenarios. Some patients, mostly elderly, nursing home residents, may not be easily revived. The success was an approximate 45 year old man who collapsed at work and his co-worker used an AED and literally saved his life. When the medics arrived he almost alert and by the time he got to the hospital he was responding.

Camp asked how many AED's are located in the City and/or County? Anderson said she's not positive, as they feel not everyone has registered through the Fire Department, but thinks around 120. Camp asked if there was statistical analysis of how many times a particular AED has been used? Anderson responded yes and as of now it's four or five that she's aware of. AED's are not frequently used but when they are they literally save a life. The impact is phenomenal. Camp stated from studies there are around 130 to 140 cardiac arrests in Lincoln each year and asked if there was an optimum number for a city our size? Michels answered he didn't know of statistics regarding an optimum number but basically want one where people congregate. Public buildings, such as the County-City Building, the Legislature, and now the schools are looking in the direction of sporting events. Not looking at a number per thousand as much as location, getting to the appropriate place.

Anderson said the cost is around \$2,000 and may be less with the consortium purchase. There are situations of memorial money used to purchase an AED to install in a church or a public building.

Camp had heard perhaps the police cruisers should be outfitted with AED's. Anderson replied there are 6 to 9 in cruisers now, being the first place the consortium placed them. The medical director of the AED project came from Fargo, North Dakota, where every police cruiser had one. Here we've placed in certain cruisers and are looking at putting in cruisers for the outlying areas. Dr. Michels added they are working with the Lincoln Public Schools, doing a public-private partnership creating a fund, to put them in the schools.

Svoboda asked if the consortium was city, county or state? Anderson replied it's actually a city based consortium, but anyone can come. Started with the medical director, who came to her and Steve Beal, at the Health Department. Would be a consortium of the Health Department, Medical Society, Heart Association, American Red Cross, anyone with a vested interest. Svoboda questioned who took care of the registration. Anderson stated it goes through Lincoln Fire. It is not funded and basically involves concerned citizens meeting on a quarterly basis to do grant writing. Had a staff person for 2 years but moved over to EMS, Inc./Medical Society where it's done for free.

Svoboda asked if 911 Dispatch knows where AED's are located in the City? Anderson stated they, 911, were on the committee and have a Lincoln Fire registry. Michels added it's a principle for the 911 operator to be able to say where an AED is closely located. Svoboda then asked if we're doing any planning for pandemic training? Michels replied they actually have a combined medical staff meeting tonight for that discussion. Michels said from a Medical Society, and combined medical staff view, they do have a process and are working to make everyone aware. Anderson added she's on the committee and it is basically made up of practitioners from hospitals, nursing homes, etc. with Bruce Dart taking the lead on the project.

Hudkins thanked Dr. Michels and Joan Anderson for their work and stated the County Board is trying to get rural under one medical director. With the services available would particularly make sense. Anderson said she appreciates such comments and pointed out Dr. Michels, and other members, are strictly volunteers. Dr. Michels was past chair and incredibly valuable during the transition. Only very few people would be that committed.

Marvin asked if cardiac statistics reports would be available upon request? Anderson said they could supply to individuals but as Lincoln Fire implemented new software in July have had difficulty getting all the data. Do have the ability to review calls, and double check for quality. Marvin wanted to know if the report provides annual data, for the current year, and previous years as well? Anderson stated she believed up to five years, and will send a copy to the City Council and County Commissioners.

Workman expressed his, and the Common members, appreciation for the report and also for Dr. Michels and Joan Anderson's dedication and volunteering.

Minutes

Workman called for approval of the February 6, 2006 Common Meeting minutes. Svoboda moved to accept minutes, Hudkins seconded.

Roll: Yes: Workman, Marvin, Hudkins, Camp, Eschliman, McRoy, Newman, Svoboda and Mayor Seng.
Abstaining: Stevens.
Absent: Schorr, Heier, Cook.

Update on Rural Ambulance Service

Ahlberg stated in October the County Board was approached by Chief Spadt to look at rural responses from Lincoln Fire and Rescue. First met on November 2nd with rural fire board presidents, or representatives, and concluded the meetings on January 25, 2006. Three major recommendations came from the committee. One was the rates for Basic Life Support/Support 1 & 2 were increased significantly. At some rural levels these rates varied and some rural partners had not been charging for BLS responses in the county. Now everyone is charging the same for ambulance services in the county. Also agreed to increase mileage rate from \$8 to \$12.50, with Lincoln Fire collecting 40% if they conducted an intercept, even though the rural department was the transporting agent. Next was Lincoln Fire and Rescue would not respond into the county on any of the Alpha, Bravo or Charlie calls, only to those automatically detailed to Delta and Echo, the ALS calls for service in the county. If a county department responding to Alpha, Bravo or Charlie determined Lincoln Fire and Rescue was needed then they would become the main provider of service. Ahlberg concluded saying it's very positive to watch so many entities, elected officials, elected rural fire boards, working in such cooperation.

Mayor Seng expressed her appreciation to Ahlberg and Spadt for their participation and to the County for taking the lead on the project.

McRoy asked with the recommendations outlined what kind of financial impact would there be? Ahlberg stated they reconvene on May 10th to see what type of financial impact this has on Lincoln Fire and Rescue. Ahlberg reiterated the rates recommended by the volunteer departments are considerably higher than what Lincoln Fire and Rescue were considering.

Hudkins stated it was brought to the attention of Commissioner Schorr, Mayor Seng and himself, at a monthly meeting in August or September, that the fire department was having a shortage. Have 17 rural fire departments and the Lincoln Fire department involved. A complex arrangement as we have districts where Lincoln Fire is primary for half the district and an adjoining district responsible for the other half. Lincoln Fire was going on every call, sometimes unnecessarily, and turning around. Of special concern was Alpha, Bravo and Charlie not being responded to. Now, 911 is asking more questions and the appropriate response team is being sent. Also, some patients have health insurance and were not being billed for ambulance service. Camp asked on the Alpha, Bravo and Charlie calls responded to by Lincoln

Fire, what is the total on a yearly average, and then out of the total number? Ahlberg replied out of the total number about 60%, a little over 1300 last year. This will cut down considerably.

Workman thanked all committee members, stating they met in the evenings taking time away from their families. The solution will be very fair to Lincoln Fire and the one thing realized from constituent calls was to not eliminate Lincoln Fire in the county, as they're doing a terrific job.

Commissioner Schorr Update

Hudkins gave a progress report on Commissioner Deb Schorr, stating he had visited with her and hopefully, as she plans now, she will be in the office for a few hours next week before she comes back on a more permanent basis.

Open Space Implementation Status Report Over Last 5 Years

Johnson stated the Comprehensive Plan adopted 5 years ago had goals for acquisition of open space. Now is appropriate time for an update and also into looking to revive the interagency agreement talked about several years ago. **(Handout distributed/Open Space Brochure with map)** Genrich pointed out all components of the map are in the existing 2025 Comp Plan. Shows parcels in open space, layer of environmental resources and existing and future trails network. On back of brochure shows free space and future growth into the county.

Several areas focused on over the last 4-5 years. One being the Salt Creek Flood Plain, around, and south, of Wilderness Park. Areas circled in red were purchased in 2001 when the city received a grant from the Environmental Trust for \$500 to purchase conservation easements, to protect the flood plain along Salt Creek from Wilderness Park and South of Saltillo Road. The money was matched with funds from Lancaster County, the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, Friends of Wilderness Park, Lincoln Home Builders, the Sierra Club and the Nebraska Wildlife Federation. At the same time Public Works and Storm Water Management had been approved to receive funds from FEMA to acquire conservation easements on the flood plain in the same general area. We coordinated efforts as FEMA was for conservation easements and the Environmental Trust Grant authorized purchases. Property owners were contacted in the area to see if they were willing to sell, either conservation easements or easements to title. Was a willing program, meaning they all had to be willing to sell. After coordinating efforts for the acquired conservation easements on 350 acres, acquired an additional 72 acres.

The total cost for the two programs came to \$912,796. City funds were matching with \$78,576 and the County brought \$71,546, averaging out to less than 10% of the cost of acquisitions. Even though funding has expired the NRD and Storm Water Management continue to work on conservation easements along Wilderness Park and in the Southeast separate Salt Creek Basin.

Another focus is Little Salt Creek, about 27th and I-80. Going north have acquired a park field and 70 some acres around Arbor Lake. Further north acquired Shoemaker Marsh on the west side of 27th Street several years ago. Continuing into the basin are parcels owned by the Game and Parks Commission. There is an easement on some property and south of the green area there is a conservation easement. Some easements, property, is owned by the major conservancy. Property owned by Games and Parks Commission and NRCS have conservation easements on these parcels. The northern area, along county line and Rock Creek, have more areas owned by the Game and Parks Commission, and other agencies, which have conservation easements.

South is a reinforcement with the Public Works Mitigation Bank for Wetlands. The northern portion has land the partnership purchased with funds from BELF. After acquiring put all parcels together which is now managed by the NRD. The partnership reads ... The Saline Wetlands

Partnership was established in 2003. The partnership is made up of the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, the NRD, the Game and Parks Commission and the Nature Conservancy. Formed in an effort to jointly work together to conserve the Saline Wetlands. The partnership operates under the umbrella of the City of Lincoln, and has received approval of funds targeted for this program in an amount totaling over three and a half million dollars.

Some funds are controlled by the Game and Parks Commission but funds include the Environmental Trust Funds, Section Six Funds, State Wildlife Funds, and 319 Funds administered from the Department of Environmental Quality. The average cost to the partners, for this project, has been around \$70,000 over a three year period. Continuing Genrich stated the total has been 590 acres in parcels around 27th and Arbor Road, including Shoemaker Marsh, the Anderson property around Arbor Lake, and a parcel south of I-80.

The third area is west Lincoln. When the Environmental Resources map was being put together recognized a pattern forming. The pattern being a lot of prairies are really important to protect as development goes into the Southwest. On the map the red circles are the acquired Martin property. Further south is Spring Creek, and the NRD and the NRCS have been working to obtain easements. Believe obvious that if we hadn't formed a partnership we would not be successful. Again, is a willing seller situation but we're laying groundwork for the future and trying to get ahead as development goes in this direction.

Hudkins asked what is being done to protect, and pickup, ground along the South Beltway. Map detailed how the South Beltway will be, in location of 27th Street, Saltillo Road, showing a half mile south, to the upper reaches of Stevens Creek. Also, there is a bond issue on the May 9th ballot, possibly allowing the linear park to go along the north side of the corridor. Hudkins asked if this would protect areas outside of the floodway, or just in the 27th to 40th area? Genrich replied most of the flood plain is on the western end, so some in that area, but closer to 54th. To the east there really is no flood plain. One large challenge is to connect from one basin to another and the Beltway really provided the opportunity.

Stevens mentioned an initiative the County Board has taken with the Legislature is the transfer of development rights concept. Basically says with an area density goal it allows area owners to transfer development rights from one land owner to another. Would not disturb the overall density goals, but allow people to possibly build a couple houses, or acreages, but then in effect the seller has a conservation. Possibly an opportunity for governmental entities to acquire some of this land at a reduced cost, especially land in a flood plain would be priced substantially lower. Hoping for an interim study by the Legislature for rules and regulations, but would be an agreement between a willing buyer and seller to sell those development rights.

Genrich said over the past 5 years there's approximately an average of 200 acres a year and spending about 10 cents on the dollar in acquisition of land. Really results from the ability to put together partnerships. The Mayor appointed the Parks and Recreation Infrastructure Finance Committee to look at community resources today and as we grow how much will be needed to be added to the open space system every year. Dividing the amount of open space in the community by the population today, and projecting the population growth, should be about 40 acres a year. We are exceeding and should continue as significant opportunities have been presented because of the Saline Wetlands. Genrich then presented Tom Malmstrom.

Malmstrom stated he was hired in 2003 to assist with the Conservation Partnership, with the five entities. Other entities participate in the partnership, not necessarily financially, but do provide resources. **(Handout distributed/ 2005 Progress Report)** The report outlines some high points which would include: Educational kiosk at Pioneers Park, in the Nature Center; Tigers of the Salt Marsh Poster, done in cooperation with University of Nebraska; North Star

High School students participation in Environmental Studies and field trips; Saline Wetlands fifth grade curriculum for Lincoln Public Schools; and looking into expanding Environmental Studies and field trips to Raymond Central High School.

Malmstrom explained some of the funding resources include: Environmental Trust Fund Grant for \$800,000, first year \$400,000; second year tentative approval for \$250,000; and third year would be \$150,000. Also the interlocal agreement signed for the first Environmental Trust Grant runs through the end of this month. City Council will be receiving draft to review, with a separate agreement with the Nature Conservancy, and the County would receive a letter of commitment. This agreement includes the Game and Parks Commission and the NRD.

Federal Section 319 Funds approved for an additional \$500,000 and application made for \$500,000. Have received tentative approval and this grant is a 60-40 grant, so will try to utilize the Environmental Trust Fund, and monies from the Partnership, to match. The Federal Section 319 Grant is primarily used for restoration activity. This, along with the Environmental Trust, allows a little more flexibility on the funding source so it can be used throughout the Saline Wetland complex. It is targeted for one specific thing, so you can work with the fund administrator to utilize the resource.

Malmstrom added other important points: Working with Lincoln Electric System on North Tier Three Power Line, which crosses through some north Saline Wetlands; Saline Wetlands bird complexes (four sites) noted by the Nebraska Audubon and National Audubon Societies; Updated site on the Parks and Recreation Website; Coordinating with Game and Parks Commission and U. S. Fish and Wildlife on activities regarding the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle and the reminder species.

Five sites purchased since inception in 2003, with no properties purchased in 2005. It is important as a public entity, and with the partnership, that we just don't purchase but move forward with restoration and other activities to make more accessible to the public, improving experiences when they visit the sites. Appreciate support in the Saline Wetlands.

Workman encouraged people to visit the Wetlands area saying Wildlife Management will solve some problems with flooding, saving money in the future. Hudkins thanked Lynn Johnson from the Parks and Recreation Department and the NRD. Stated one of the great things accomplished was putting together the Saline Wetlands. On purchases it's great to have vision, particularly with a willing buyer and seller. Mayor Seng pointed out the detail on the map stating the area formed had been called the green necklace, and how important the area will be when the South Beltway materializes. The maps distributed show outstanding detail.

Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting. Hudkins seconded. Motion to adjourn passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Mary Meyer
Clerk